

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

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## Volunteers needed for Center Director forum



## Examination, testing continue on Discovery

▲ **KSC, Can We Talk? with Center Director:** In August 2003, Sean O'Keefe created *Can We Talk: A dialogue with the Administrator*, a monthly discussion with HQ employees, following the release of the CAIB report. The hope was to hold informal dialogues and enhance the workplace culture. He then encouraged other Centers to create similar open-communications programs. Our Center Director, Jim Kennedy, is pleased to announce a similar forum from noon to 1 p.m. on March 24\*. Kennedy will be hosting the first *KSC, Can We Talk?*, in the form of a brown bag lunch. Limited to 20 NASA-KSC employees, *KSC, Can We Talk?* has no preprepared, preselected, or predetermined topics. The topics are provided by the participants, who will be selected via a random lottery. Participants must be non-SES, GS-15 or below. To apply for this opportunity, simply e-mail your name to [CanWeTalk@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:CanWeTalk@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov) by Thursday, March 18. If you have any questions, please contact Gisele Altman, [Gisele.Altman-1@nasa.gov](mailto:Gisele.Altman-1@nasa.gov), 867-4000. (\*Subject to change due to Kennedy's schedule.)

▲ **Shuttle Update :** **Discovery** continues to be processed for the Return to Flight mission. The four rudder speed brake actuators were X-rayed last week to determine if the gears were installed correctly. Actuator No. 2 showed that a gear was reversed. It will be sent back to the vendor for refurbishment and returned to KSC for re-installation on the vehicle. Vehicle power-up testing continues with the main propulsion system leak tests and fuel cell system checkout. The body flap actuator fit check was successfully completed. Build-up of Reinforced Carbon-Carbon (RCC) panels and associated fittings is ongoing. Six RCC spar fittings have been installed on the left-hand leading edge.

◆ **ELV Update** – Two solar array panels have been installed and the remaining two are targeted for completion March 18. Powered-on testing of the spacecraft with the reworked Experiment Control Unit (ECU) re-installed is complete. A detailed data analysis is confirming that the ECU is performing as desired. Installation of small ordnance inside the Forward Equipment Enclosure (FEE) has been completed. The FEE surrounds the electronics of the Science Mission Dewar, which has valves that are opened on-orbit by these pyrotechnics to equalize pressure. The

spacecraft is currently scheduled to be transported to Space Launch Complex 2 on April 1 and mated to the Boeing Delta II rocket.

◆ **Judges needed for TSA competition** – The Florida Technical Student Association (TSA) State Conference and Competition is being held April 22 - 24 at the Orlando Airport Marriott Hotel. This conference lets junior and senior high school students from around the state demonstrate their level of skills in solving various technology-related problems. Please e-mail Patricia Gillis at [patricia.j.gillis@nasa.gov](mailto:patricia.j.gillis@nasa.gov) to sign up or for information.

◆ **NASA Science News** – It's unavoidable: Humans can't go to space without taking trillions of microbes with them. An experiment onboard the Space Station aims to find out how bugs behave in orbit. Read the full story at [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/23feb\\_yeastgap.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/23feb_yeastgap.htm)

◆ **Did You Know?** Details on Space Station science operations can be found at <http://scipoc.msfc.nasa.gov/>

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